

REMARKS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the claimed invention is respectfully requested in view of the amendments, remarks and enclosures herewith, which place the application in condition for allowance.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 3, 6-9 and 12-22 are pending in this application. Claims 13 and 14 have been amended to correct some minor typographical errors. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

It is submitted that the claims, herewith and as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited in the Office Action, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112.

II. COMMENT REGARDING THE RESTRICTION/ELECTION OF SPECIES

Although the applicants have made their elections without traverse, the late date of this restriction/election of species requirement was not well received by the applicants and appears to run counter to the Office policy of practicing compact prosecution. The applicants are essentially reaffirming their previous election and there was no reason why the claims could not have been allowed or permitting the applicants to proceed with the Appeal Brief after the decision on the Pre-Appeal Brief Request for Review had been made.

CONCLUSION

In view of the remarks and amendments herewith, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application and prompt issuance of a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. The undersigned looks forward to hearing favorably from the Examiner at an early date, and, the Examiner is invited to telephonically contact the undersigned to advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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